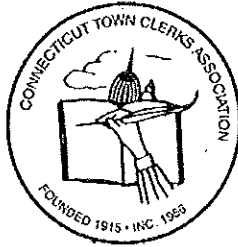


Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

Committee Members

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY March 9, 2015 Government Administration and Elections

Raised Bill No. 1042: An Act Concerning Municipal Options for Elections

Raised Bill No. 1041: An Act Concerning Post Election Audit Integrity and Efficiency

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee. The Connecticut Town Clerk's Association would like to offer the following commentary regarding the two proposed bills above.

We support Raised Bill No. 1042 that seeks to extend the term of elected officials to four years. The learning curve for any elected position cannot be discounted. For example, the election cycle is a four-year process, municipal, state, federal, justice of the peace, are not done annually. An elected Town Clerk with a two-year term, would also find it very difficult to effectuate any change in the first term. As the term begins, the municipal budget process is likely underway. Further, the Connecticut Town Clerks Association certification process takes two and a half years to complete.

This Bill also seeks to address the name as it shall appear on the ballot. The Town Clerks Association wholeheartedly support the notion and request that such authorization come in the form of a document prescribed by the Secretary of the State and signed by the candidate.

With regard to Raised Bill No. 1041, An Act Concerning Post Election Audit Integrity and Efficiency, the Town Clerks have the following recommendations: (1) Leaving the municipal clerk with sole responsibility of conducting the public random drawings for the audit in all instances, as per current statute for the purpose of checks and balances (Section 1b); (2) leaving the period for sealing of tabulators at 14 days and not increasing it to 30-60 days as towns may need these tabulators for referendum or special elections (Section 3(a); and (3) giving an option for the return and preserving for 60 days after the election for the sealed depository envelopes to either the municipal clerk or registrar of voters instead of replacing the municipal clerk with registrar of voters so the municipalities have a choice based upon available storage space (Section 6(e&f).

Respectfully submitted,
Debra H Denette, East Haddam Town Clerk
Vice-Chair, CTCA Legislative Committee